

SUMMARY OF REPORTS\*

OLDER 4-H - YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE

Western States

Salt Lake City, Utah

November 12 to 14, 1945

Purpose of Conference

The conference was called to:

- (1) Lay out plans, programs and procedures for actively expanding the 4-H Club program with the 15 to 21 year olds.
- (2) Develop broad policies and principles of operation with respect to building an Extension program with young adults beyond the club age.

Attendance

A total of 34 - Directors, State Home Demonstration Leaders, State 4-H Club Leaders, County Agent Leaders, Young Farmer and Home Maker Specialists and County Extension Agents from 11 Western States and Alaska.

Plan

Joint sessions daily for background and coordination.

Work sessions on the two basic problems for which conference was called.

Program Recommendations - Young Adult Program

A. The program with young adults should be geared to solving some part of a large problem.

1. Those facing the individual

Examples:

Becoming established in farming  
Developing skills in farming and homemaking  
Adjusting the individual society

2. Those local problems requiring group action

Examples:

Health problems  
Public services needed

3. Problems of national and international character

Examples:

Regional development and conservation of resources  
World trade policies  
Maintenance of peace

\* Presented at Quarterly Extension Conference, Washington, D.C., January 3, 1945, by Kenneth W. Ingwalson, Division of Field Coordination.



B. Problems facing Extension in building a larger program with young adults

1. The need for everyone's understanding the situation
  - a. Present extension contact
  - b. Number, kind, situations, problems, interests, needs of the specific young adults.
2. How to plan, develop and execute programs, in terms of
  - a. Subject-matter
  - b. Methods
  - c. Correlation with other programs
3. Need for personnel adequately trained.

C. Objectives

Provide continuity in the educational activities of the agricultural Extension Service by offering all rural young adults more attractive opportunities to meet their needs and interests.

Stimulate young adults to acquire skill and knowledge in the art of farming, homemaking, and related vocations.

Plan the program to provide opportunity for educational, social and economic growth and for community service.

Encourage an appreciation of the cultural values and provide opportunity for social and spiritual development of young adults.

Foster a better understanding between rural and urban people.

Encourage young adults to assume increasing responsibilities as rural leaders.

Enlist the cooperation of, and cooperate with, public and private agencies whose aims are consistent with these aims and objectives.

D. Organization - Recommendations

1. State committee at the college
2. Some county extension worker in each county to be designated as project leader.
3. Use temporary advisory group in county to explore possibilities of program
4. Locally - no set pattern - groups may be
  - a. On an age basis (20-30 club)
  - b. Around a commodity interest (young fruit growers)
  - c. Around a situation (young married couples)
  - d. As a program for use by various established organizations



Many methods besides a formal separate organization were considered as feasible if programs are geared to the problems facing these young adults.

1. Established groups or clubs.
2. Young farmers' clubs.
3. Young Homemakers' groups.
4. Institutes.
5. Short Courses.
6. Discussion panels.
7. Projects.
8. Father and Son partnerships, or, Farm Family Partnerships.
9. Cooperative measures with other farmer organizations.
10. Community service projects.
11. Educational tours, camps, outings.
12. Farm and home demonstration.
13. Service letters to young men and women throughout the county on some topic of current interest.

All present extension methods should be studied and used in the program. Develop steps to evaluate progress of program.

Name

1. Should be based on the individual's relationship to Extension Service whether we work with them individually or as a group or within regularly established community organizations. The name should not give any impression that we are organizing competing groups.
2. Proposal - Y.E.C. - Young Extension Cooperators.



Program Recommendations - Older 4-H 15 to 21 year group.

Background Material conclusions.

1. We are embarking upon a new age as a result of the developments arising out of World War II.
2. The educational program should help develop better human relationships as well as teach the economic bases of earning a living.
3. The problems developing out of this changing world affect the youth more than any other group, because the problems will be theirs to solve.
4. We, therefore, need to analyze the present 4-H programs to see that it offers an opportunity for these youth to help develop ways and means of meeting these challenges.

What this age boy and girl want

In addition to present program young people want more of the following to be included in the 4-H program:

1. Club composed of one or more communities large enough to permit group participation with from 15 to 25 in a group.
2. Plan own program with adult assistance.
3. Mixed groups (young men and women).
4. Challenging projects available--opportunity to make some money.
5. Meetings twice monthly separate from school, meetings to be held generally in evenings.
6. Considerable recreation.
7. An opportunity to attack significant and large community problems that they recognize.
8. Group discussions on topics like:
  - a. Personal improvement
  - b. Choosing a lifework
  - c. Civic and national problems
  - d. Economic affairs

Program Content

The group recommended that the Western States develop a unified 4-H program graded according to developing needs and interests with special emphasis on the 15 to 21 year old group.

In discussing the development of a program, the activities each group might engage in were considered under three headings: Education, Community Service, and Recreation. Under the educational phase a partial list of typical discussion topics and possibilities for individual and group action are given below:



# 1. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM - Older 4-H

METHODS		
DISCUSSION	: INDIVIDUAL WORK	: GROUP WORK
<u>Examples</u>	: <u>Examples</u>	: <u>Examples</u>
Typical topics	: Farm partnerships	: Summer camps
Choosing a life work	: Result demonstrations	: Sponsor
Personal improvement	: Provide leadership for a	: local exhibits
Problems relating to	: younger 4-H club	: local fairs
world peace	: Showing home responsi-	: local tours
Health	: bilities	: Provide panel discussions
Housing	: Provide recreation leader-	: for topics of general
Military training	: ship	: interest before adult
Non-Partisan political	: Supplemental enterprises	: audience
issues	: through which youth	: Develop cooperative
Non-Denominational	: earn money	: market
religious issues	:	:
Economic problems	:	:

Under Community Service, a partial list of possible problems for discussion and possible action are given below:

## II. COMMUNITY SERVICE - Older 4-H

TYPES OF PROBLEMS NEEDING SOLUTIONS	:	HOW
Unattractive roadsides	:	1. Own direct action
Unattractive farmsteads	:	Take Census of action
Insufficient educational facilities	:	Plan Programs members complete
Insufficient community recreational	:	themselves
facilities	:	2. Indirect action
Non-support of churches	:	Programs requiring adult
Inadequate health, medical facilities	:	assistance

## III. RECREATION - Older 4-H

FOR OWN GROUP	:	ON A COMMUNITY BASIS
Recreational programs based on the	:	Picnics
psychology of this particular group	:	
and should be coeducational type	:	Tours
and participation by entire group	:	
Camps	:	Dances
Hobbies	:	
Parties	:	Pot Luck dinners, etc.
Athletics	:	
	:	Vacation camps



## Extension Needs for Extending a Richer 4-H Program.

To develop a broader program in 4-H work for this group we need to:

1. Train Extension staff in importance and need for the program and characteristics of groups with which they are working.
2. Provide guidance in selection of local leaders.
3. Train local leaders so that they have a vision of:
  - a. Size and importance of their job.
  - b. Techniques of carrying out responsibilities.

The following recommendations were made concerning Extension personnel with reference to those working with the 15-21 year age group.

1. Must be convinced of the need for a broadened 4-H Club program.
2. They should like to work with and get along with young people.
3. Must understand characteristics of this age group, and their importance.
4. a. In-service training is recommended for those of the Extension Staff. This training should include principles of education, psychology, sociology and personal relationships.
- b. Undergraduates considering working in the 4-H Club field, especially designed courses should be carried.
- c. The State 4-H Club staff should discuss the older 4-H program with the county extension workers. The workshop technique is recommended as one way of training. County extension workers should be trained in the workshop training technique so that they can use it in training local leaders.